

You Can Help, Too!

The health of the Saugus River is very important to the people nearby. One of the ways we check the health of the Saugus River is by checking pH. Here is your chance to help!

What is pH?

pH stands for “potential of Hydrogen.” It tells how acidic or basic the river is. It is measured on a scale of 1 to 14 with 7 being neutral. Acids are lower than 7 and bases are higher than 7. See the diagram for some examples.

On a pH scale the difference between two values represents a change of 10 times. For example, a pH of 5 is ten times more acidic than a pH of 6.

At the Iron Works, we use pH to check the water. Most of the aquatic plants and animals here need a pH between 5.5 and 8.5 to survive. If the pH goes out of that range it can have a big effect on the plants and animals in the river.

Here's What You Do:

1. In the Visitor Center, you can ask for the pH test kit.
2. Take the kit to the river. Generally the bridge is a good place.
3. Extend the arm so you can fill the test tube with water.
4. Take a pH test strip from the box labeled “pH Test Strips.”
5. Wet the end of the strip with water from the test tube.
6. Match the color of the test strip to the closest color on the box.
7. Record your pH.
8. Return all your equipment to the Visitor Center and record your pH in the book labeled “Jr. Ranger pH tests.”

Record Your pH here.

My pH test number: _____

